GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2692
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Notified Forest Land
Goud Dr. Boora Narsaiah;Reddy Shri Midhun

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the forest land that was notified and de-notified during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
(b) the extent of new forest developed after de-notification, State-wise; and
(c) the extent to which the said measures have helped in combating climate change in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The power to notify any area as forest land as well as to denotify forest lands is vested with State Governments under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The information regarding area that has been notified as forest land or denotified by various State/ UT Government is not maintained at the Ministry level. However, de-notification of any forest land requires prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as well as the approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court in accordance with order dated 13.11.2000 in I.A. No. 2 in W. P. No. 337/1995 that "....pending further orders, no dereservation of forests/ sanctuaries/ national parks shall be effected." As such the Ministry has not granted any approval for de-notification of forest land during the last three years.

Forests provide a number of ecological services including carbon sequestration, which helps in combating climate change. Increase in forest cover will contribute to mitigation and adaption of climate change in addition to enhancing ecological services. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2015, the forest cover of the country has shown an increase of 3,775 sq km in comparison to last assessment of forest cover as per ISFR 2013.

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